



Monthly Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church
April 2019

Grace Notes

Rector's Reflection The Easter Experience

The resurrection of Jesus has two primary meanings: "Jesus lives" and "Jesus is Lord." So wrote Marcus Borg in his book, *Speaking Christian*. Borg encourages us to celebrate Easter by our own individual experiences of the Risen Christ. How does Jesus live? How is Jesus Lord? Each one of us needs to consider these two questions before we can truly celebrate Easter.

This is the biblical witness. The Gospel stories of Easter are stories of personal experiences. Think of Mary Magdalene and the other women. St. John tells us that John outran Peter to the empty tomb, but Peter actually was the first to go in. We all know Thomas had to see and to touch the Risen Christ for himself.

We also have the record of men and women throughout history who experience Easter as they know Jesus lives and Jesus is Lord. St. Paul writes, "I have been crucified with Christ: and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me..." (Gal. 2:19-20) The Church understands Holy Baptism to be "dying and rising with Christ."

Bishop Ihloff will be with us for the Great Vigil on Easter Eve, April 20. He will confirm our J2A teenagers and several adults. All of us in attendance will renew our own baptismal vows. We proclaim, "Jesus lives" and "Jesus is Lord."

We can celebrate Easter because we have experienced Easter.

I hope you'll join us for the richness of Holy Week and the glory of Easter.

Grace, Peace, Love
Robert H. Malm

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Worship Schedule

Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite I7:30 am
Child Care 8:45 am–12:45 pm
Children’s Chapel 8:50 am–9:30 am
La Santa Eucaristía9:00 am
Choral Eucharist Rite II9:00 am
Christian Ed classes10:15 am
Choral Eucharist Rite I11:15 am
Holy Eucharist Rite II 5:00 pm

Weekday Schedule thru April 12

Mondays, Rite II 6:30 pm
Tuesdays
Confessions 5:45 to 6:15 pm
Rite II with healing 6:30 pm
Wednesdays, Rite I7:00 am
Thursdays* 12:15 pm
Fridays
Confessions 11:30 am to Noon
Stations of the Cross, Rite I ... 12:15 pm

*Alternating Rite I and Rite II weekly

Weekday Schedule starting April 23

Tuesdays, Rite II with healing.... 6:30 pm
Wednesdays, Rite I7:00 am
Thursdays* 12:15 pm

About Grace Notes

Grace Notes is published 10 times a year by Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia – monthly except for combined July/August and December/January issues. The deadline for submitting copy is midnight on the 15th of the preceding month.

The next *Grace Notes* deadline is April 15 for the May issue. Articles should be submitted by e-mail to grace.notes@gracealex.org. All articles are subject to editing.

Grace Church’s newsletter team includes Amy Barron, Kristine Hesse, June Huber, Teresa Preston, and Amy Medrick.

For the Time Being: The Cross We Bear, the People We Meet

“Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow him.”

As I write, we had just completed a Friday Lenten observance here at Grace including the Stations of the Cross. It is our opportunity in this place to mirror the journey of the Via Dolorosa, which is among the holiest sites in Christendom. It is the path taken by Jesus when, bearing his cross on his back, he made his way to Golgotha, the place of his crucifixion. The Roman custom of those days was that anyone condemned to death was made to walk through the city with their name and conviction on full display.

Walking the stations here, I recalled the first time I walked the Via Dolorosa in 1996. Holy Orders and ordination were nowhere on my radar, and it was my first opportunity to be in the Holy Land. The remarkable thing was such a solemn observance amid a living city that went about its daily work. I imagine even now that it draws few glances from those passing by as it did in the time of Jesus.

The Via Dolorosa is a street no different from other streets in the northern part of the Old City, except that nine of the fourteen Stations lie along it to commemorate the drama of Jesus’ walk to the Cross. The other five Stations are inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Each Friday afternoon, Franciscans hold a procession along the Via Dolorosa. I will walk that path again while I serve at St. George’s College in Jerusalem as their voluntary chaplain beginning in July.

Walking the Stations here at Grace, it was in the shadow of a horrendous event in Christchurch, NZ. A self-identified white nationalist from Australia had unleashed a shooting rampage at two mosques, killing 49 people and injuring many more. It ratcheted up global tensions where hate speech and physical violence grow out of a warped ideology that white identity should be the organizing principle of the world community. It leaves no room for the ‘foreigner,’ the ‘stranger,’ or the ‘other,’ and it corrupts the image of God’s Kingdom here on earth.

On Ash Wednesday, I spoke of neighbors as I served at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. One group are Muslims who gather each week for prayer and teaching, and another is Temple Beth El Hebrew Congregation, who co-led the annual Oral Rehydration Therapy effort with Immanuel. I learned that our Christian practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent are like three of the five “pillars” of Islam, the core practices of Muslim life. Judaism also emphasizes prayer,

fasting, and almsgiving, and all three traditions stress the confession of faith in one God. I consider this anew as I ready for Jerusalem, that one holy city where these three religions, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, all converge.

Lent should not be the only time we consider amendment of life to repent of our focus on religious practices that we use that divide us from others, including other religions. I hope and pray, as we walk to the Cross, and live into the joy of an empty tomb and our risen Lord, that we might focus on how we share similar ways of connecting to God and neighbor, when we do so with integrity. I join with you in that walk, now and always.

*With Grace & Peace,
The Rev. David M. Crosby
Interim Assistant to the Rector*

Music Notes

During Holy Week, please join us for the Service of Choral Tenebrae at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17. On Good Friday, there will be a small representation from the Adult Choir to lead the congregational hymn singing. In keeping with an ancient tradition of the Church, the organ will remain silent from the final hymn on Maundy Thursday until the First Mass of Easter on Easter Eve. This means that the hymns sung on Good Friday will be done *a cappella*. The renewed sounding of the organ with full force at the Great Vigil of Easter will be dramatic as a result. We will have a brass quintet and timpani on Easter morning at both the 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. liturgies, with the usual *Hallelujah Chorus* at the end of each service.

Holy Week and Easter are perhaps the most musically rich times of the liturgical year. But to provide for special instrumental music at Easter, we rely solely on the Music Fund—not on the church budget. The total sum of our Easter morning brass and timpani will cost \$3,300. If having brass is meaningful to you and you are able, please consider making a donation of *any amount* to the Music Fund to help defray this cost. I bid you all a holy Lent and a most joyful Eastertide.

*Richard Newman
Director of Music*

Grace Episcopal School

Spring is filled with promise, and such is the case at Grace School! We celebrate the incredible leaps in learning our students make each day. We can promise that the future will be filled with outstanding scientists, writers, mathematicians, engineers, artists, athletes and more. The talents of our Grace children are so impressive!

As we complete the admissions season, we are thrilled to be welcoming many new families next fall. Of course, we are happy to have so many of our families return to Grace, which allows our community to grow and prosper. If you have family or friends who want to know more about Grace, please let them know about our Glimpse of Grace event scheduled for Thursday, April 11 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Individual tours can also be arranged by contacting Amanda Hungerford at admissions@graceschoolalex.org. Grace School wishes the full Grace community a blessed Easter season!

*Patti Culbreth
Head of School*

Announcements

Youth News

Youth Night

Youth Night will be April 7 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Dinner is included for all our youth.

PYM Weekend

The PYM Weekend for middle schoolers is May 10-12 at Shrine Mont. If your youth would like to attend, please see the registration information and forms in the Wednesday RoundUp. Not receiving Jenni's weekly email? Email her at jenni.faires@gracealex.org to add your name to the list.

Palm Sunday and Easter Activities

The 4-5th grade Sunday school class will hold a bake sale during the Intergenerational Palm Sunday Forum and donate the profits to a local charity. We are so proud of our children for thinking intentionally about how they can give generously during Lenten and Easter season! Come make a palm cross, create a Holy Week family devotional and purchase some goodies during the forum hour on April 14.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10:15 on Easter Sunday morning, April 21. Our playground area will be filled with plastic eggs, filled by our Rite 13 youth. We need candy, stickers, plastic rings, rolls of quarters, etc. to fill the hundreds of eggs that the children will search for! Please drop donations off in the bin in front of Jenni's office. Our parents thank you in advance for the delicious candy that they will eat from the children's baskets!

Grace Legacy Society

April 15, Tax Day, is on the horizon. The process of gathering financial information and preparing taxes for the previous year provides insight into our priorities. Priorities shift as circumstances demand, but the bulwarks of faith, family, giving to others, are the priorities that I seek to reflect in my financial commitments. Assessing the year past and giving thought to 2019 prompts attention to the more distant future as well. Is your will up to date? Do you have a Power of Attorney and Medical Directive? Is Planned Giving a part of your legacy? How will you provide for the future of Grace Church? These are questions for consideration not just in April, but perhaps the April 15 tax deadline can serve as a date that prompts one to ponder all financial priorities and decisions.

Mary Hix

Easter Card Signing

On Palm Sunday, April 14, we will be signing Easter Cards for Grace College Students, Parishioners serving abroad, Parishioners on the prayer list, and Easter Vigil candidates for Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation. If your college student is about to graduate, or if a military or diplomatic family member is changing duty stations, or you know someone who needs to be on our list, contact Nancy Robinson at nancy.robinson@gracealex.org. If you have some time to help, we will be setting up cards in Merrow Hall Auditorium the day before Palm Sunday (Saturday, 13 April), after the Altar Guild Palm crews have finished their work.

Our HVAC upgrades are finally starting!
Beginning April 23, these activities will meet in the following rooms:

LaGracia will hold services in the First Floor Preschool classroom.
J2A will meet in a classroom, TBD
Rite Thirteen will meet in the Library
Adult Forums will be held in the St. Mark Room
Coffee hour will be in the First Floor Commons for both services.
The schedule will change after June 10th, so stay tuned!

Adult Forums in April

April 7 – Lenten Series Wrap Up

As part of the Confirmation process, the J2A youth have been meeting each Monday night to explore their faith. Topics have included Baptism and Confirmation: Beginnings, the Bible: Stories from Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, Knowing Our History; Faith: What Do We Believe?, and Worship: Responding to God’s Blessings. At the beginning of the series, the class was asked to make a video that explains the process of confirmation to a wider audience. On April 7, the youth will be presenting their video project, explaining the process of Confirmation in their own words, using pictures and music.

April 14 – Palm Sunday Intergenerational Forum

The entire congregation will gather in Merrow Hall Auditorium during the Education hour on Palm Sunday to make palm crosses, create a Holy Week family devotion, and purchase goodies from our 5th and 6th graders. Proceeds from the bake sale will go to a local charity. Congratulations to our 4th and 5th graders for thinking creatively of ways to help others during the Lenten and Easter season.

April 21 – No Adult Forum; Easter Egg Hunt inside the playground area.

April 28 – Fleece Blanket Making

Join the 5th and 6th graders as they lead a parish-wide effort to make fleece blankets for our local nursing home residents.

What to bring:

- Purchase **two** pieces of coordinating fleece, anywhere from 1.5 to 3 yards (1.3-2.7 meters) for each fleece; 1.5 yards makes a decent size throw, 2.5-3 yards (2.3-2.7 meters) makes a nice twin size blanket.
- Fabric Scissors (or very sharp scissors that will cut fleece).

Not the crafty sort? Come and help those that are making the blankets cut strips and tie knots... many hands make light work!

From the Assistant to the Rector for Parish Life and Family Ministries

Since I am writing my April Grace Notes article on the same day I fill out my basketball bracket, March Madness is on my mind! I love to watch the NCAA tournament (and I am thankful that it extends into April, so my analogy works), track my brackets and cheer on the underdog. In the end, all the hard work that these athletes have been doing for most of their lives, preparing for this moment, pays off. Whether they win or lose, they get to “dance.”

We can apply that same lesson to our church’s version of March/April Madness this year... Lent and Easter! If you pull back the curtain and look behind the scenes of our congregations’ lives, you see so many similarities. This Lenten season we had 15-20 members devote themselves to the 7 Experiment Study: a weekly study that had each person examine the excesses in their lives. These excesses often represent barriers to our relationship with God and each person in the study worked diligently to look inside their own hearts to see how to minimize their excess and maximize their lives in service to Christ. Other members spent their Monday nights listening to wonderful speakers talk about living the Way of Love. What a beautiful message for us to hear and then do! Many more of you are truly working at keeping the promise you made to God by training daily with extra Bible study and prayer, and still more have added routine to their lives—preparing for the moment when it all pays off—Easter Sunday and the celebration of the risen Christ.

Easter is no game, however. As Christians, we all must acknowledge the pain and suffering that Jesus endured to absorb the sin of the world. Where would we be without that sacrifice? Yet, too often we ramble on through the other 46 weeks of our lives with little recollection of our willingness to live differently.

What if we, as Christians, continued the sacrifices we make during Lent throughout the year? What if we read the Bible every day, changed our diet for the better, tried to regularly attend worship, did family devotions each night . . . for 52 weeks instead of six? What if we lived like Easter was always six weeks away?

As Lent is ending and we come to celebrate our Risen Christ, I have been doing much reflection on the purpose of the emphasis on Lent in the church year and I have come to the following conclusion: God didn’t send his Son to die for us so we can change our lives for six weeks. He sent his Son to the cross for a lifetime commitment—from us—his flock—his children. Perhaps our thinking needs to shift from a temporary sacrifice to permanent change. What can we do year-round, 52 weeks and 365 days to honor the life that was sacrificed for us? If we can accomplish that, then we are truly living up to the meaning of Easter and our “dance” will have new meaning.

Blessings this Easter. May you live with the excitement that you feel on Easter morning the whole year through!

- Jenni Faires



What We Worship

It was past the time when I usually write my monthly article. I was getting anxious because I didn't have any brilliant (or even moderately good) ideas. But then, yesterday, I participated in our 7 Elements (of Excess) Lenten study class, and my solution presented itself.

We were pondering Matthew 6:21, "...where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Jesus is telling us that whatever we value the most is something that we also love. It might be food, clothing, possessions, social media, running, our favorite TV shows.... If we're not sure, we should ask ourselves: Where do we spend the most money, time and attention?

While I was listening to the discussion (with one ear), a related thought popped into my mind: We worship what we love the most. Think about it. To "worship" is to honor, show reverence for, regard with respect and devotion, reverence, adore. Have you ever known someone whose walk-in closet looked like a shrine? Or someone whose big-screen super-duper HD TV resembled an altar? Or someone who spoke about running with a tone of reverence? (My apologies to fashionistas, binge-watchers and former track stars.)

We worship what we love the most. If we love God more than anyone or anything, then we worship him. As Saint Paul wrote to the Hebrews, "Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God." (Hebrews 13:15). At all times and in all places; not just at the times we spend in the places we call "church."

I worship God when I notice the first crocus peeking out from a pile of dead leaves; when I listen to Beethoven's "Eroica" symphony; when I smell a freshly-ironed shirt; when I hug a friend that I haven't seen lately. I worship God when I perform my Lenten devotion and say Compline, with Brad or alone, at the end of the day. (I've forgotten a couple of times, but I keep trying.) I worship God even when I'm doing the simple tasks necessary to prepare dinner. At all times and in all places.

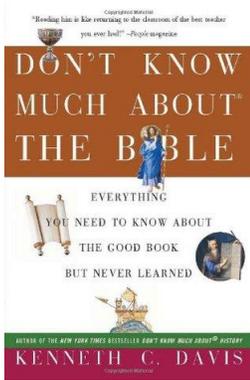
(Spoiler Alert! Next month I'll write about worshipping God when we ARE in the places called church.)

June Huber



From the Library

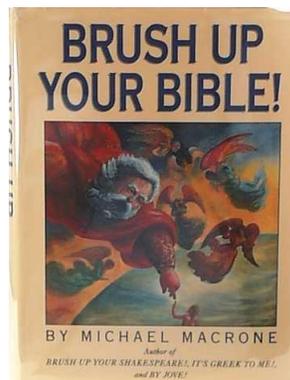
How well do you know your Bible? We hear portions of the New and Old Testaments in church every week, and we listen to sermons that are usually tied to one or more of the week's lessons. Some of us may read portions of the Bible daily or belong to study groups to gain further insights into the Bible's meaning. Our parish library contains several series of Bible commentaries that provide detailed, systematic analysis of the scriptures for the studious. Our library also contains books that address the Bible from a different perspective.



The first book I will mention is, Don't Know Much About the Bible by Kenneth C. Davis. Mr. Davis subtitled his work "everything you need to know about the Good Book but never learned." It is intended to provide a readable road map through the Bible in a

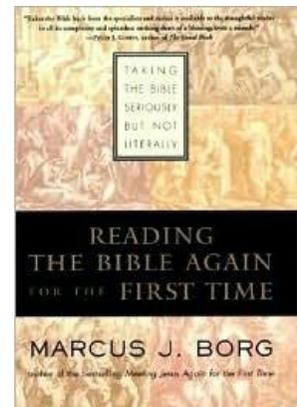
manner Davis hopes will allow the Good Book to remain morally instructive, vividly alive, and spiritually challenging. Mr. Davis is the author of the Don't Know Much About series, which includes Don't Know Much About History, Don't Know Much About Geography, and Don't Know Much About the Civil War. This best-selling author knows what we are likely to be missing in our understanding of biblical history and context and tries to fill us in using a very appealing, conversational style.

The next book, Brush Up Your Bible by Michael Macrone, is also part of a series. Macrone has authored Brush Up Your Shakespeare,



Mythology. Brush Up Your Bible presents brief, very readable entries on the most famous words, phrases and stories of the Bible. This is a book that does not have to be read cover to cover. No entry is more than two pages in length and it is fun to thumb through and stop at headings such as "A Den of Thieves", "My Name is Legion", "Speaking in Tongues", or "The Scales Fell from One's Eyes". All the entries I have read are very entertaining as well as informative. Macrone is another author who knows where we need help and offers it in an engaging, relatable style.

Reading the Bible Again for the First Time by Marcus J. Borg, attempts to explain the significance of the Bible for Christians from what the author describes as a historical-metaphorical approach, but addressing traditional



interpretation. Borg is a religion professor (and a practicing Episcopalian) so the approach is scholarly; but I have found the portions I have read to be accessible to me, as I am confident they would be for you as well. All in all, this book is as readable as it is enlightening.

Finally, we have The Bible Almanac, a reference book intended as a guide to a layman's understanding to the people and cultures of Bible times. It contains timelines, helpful maps of the Holy Land, and numerous articles on a wide array of biblical subjects, including Jewish law, Noah's ark (could it hold animals?), and the early church. This source, while very practical, offers a wealth of interesting, quirky information.

Jay O'Malley

Buguruni Anglican Health Centre

Grace's mission in Tanzania is all about people. To better understand whom we are helping, we will be telling stories of two Tanzanians we are helping each month in Grace Notes.



The mother brought this child all the way from the southwest of the country to our health center. The child was malnourished, had a swollen abdomen, and was getting sicker. All of the laboratory tests were negative and she is getting much better after being fed. She likely had protein-calorie malnutrition.



This baby, on his mother's lap, came in with a high fever and seizures. The most likely diagnosis in this situation was malaria but the test was negative. A careful examination identified an abscess on one of his fingers and the baby was treated for sepsis (infection in the blood from the finger infection). He did very well.

Dr. Henry Ziegler
Health Tanzania Foundation

Palm Sunday, April 14

All Palm Sunday liturgies include the blessing and distribution of palms and a dramatic reading of the Passion according to St. Luke.

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist with procession
- 9:00 a.m. Liturgia de las Palmas (la Misa empezara afuera)
- 10:15 a.m. Intergenerational Event (making palm crosses and other Holy Week symbols)
- 11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist with procession
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, April 15

- 6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, April 16

- 6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 17

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 7:30 p.m. Choral Tenebrae

Maundy Thursday, April 18

- 12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist
- 7:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Day, foot washing, procession to the Altar of Repose, stripping of the altar, Prayer Watch (continues all night)



Good Friday, April 19

- 7:30 a.m. Liturgy of the Day with dramatic reading of the Passion according to St. John and the Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
- 12:00 p.m. The Stations of the Cross
- 1:00 p.m. Silence
- 1:30 p.m. The Liturgy of the Day and Veneration of the Cross (No Childcare available)
- 5:00 p.m. Children's Service (No Childcare available)
- 7:00 p.m. Via Crucis

Holy Saturday, April 20

- 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 7:30 p.m. Childcare available during The Great Vigil
- 8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter
With service of light, lessons and collects, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, The Rt. Rev. Robert Ihloff, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, Celebrant and Preacher. The service will be followed by a parish Agape celebration in the Auditorium.

Easter Day, April 21

Festive Coffee Hour after the 9:00 and 11:15 liturgies.

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist with brass, choir, organ and timpani
- 9:00 a.m. Misa y celebración
- 10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt (No childcare available. Childcare reopens at 11:00 for 11:15 service.)
- 11:15 a.m. Festival Eucharist with brass, choir, organ and timpani
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist



April Birthdays

4/1	Ann Korky
4/1	John Metz
4/3	Nancy Lorentz
4/6	Kerry Broome
4/6	Mary Ann Ryan
4/6	Conway Zeigler
4/7	Phil Hickok
4/7	Eric Waskowicz
4/8	Will Mackie
4/9	Savannah Hall
4/9	Fred Saalfeld
4/10	Jenny Cline
4/10	Mary Stewart
4/12	Angel Lopez Bonilla
4/14	Alex Cline
4/16	Lisa Bellantoni
4/16	Khacki Berry
4/17	Molly Sim
4/17	Mary Wallace
4/18	Brian Foucart
4/20	Sasha Karamyshev
4/21	Landon Broome
4/21	Nora Lee Henderson
4/21	Barbara Morris
4/22	Amelia Pattarini
4/24	Peter Iovino
4/24	Maisie Lane
4/24	Keller Smith
4/26	Ellen Rugaber
4/27	Caroline Beard
4/28	Donna Plunkett
4/28	Richard Smith
4/29	Suzi Pease

Parish Staff

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Beth Calaman Financial Administrator
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Ashley Mather Seminarian
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Matthew Machowski Seminarian
(matthew.machowski@gracealex.org)	

Vestry

Executive Committee

Chris Kupczyk	..... Senior Warden
Anne Caputo	..... Junior Warden
Mary Stewart	..... Treasurer
Jennifer Long	..... Register
Jean Reed	..... Member at Large

Class of 2019

Kelly Gable	..... Youth
Erin Kelly	..... TNT
Chris Kupezyk	..... Senior Warden
Jennifer Long	..... School Board
Jean Reed	..... Evangelism

Class of 2020

Khacki Berry	..... Christian Education
Anne Caputo	..... Junior Warden
Stephen Lovell	..... Stewardship
Mary Stewart	..... Treasurer
Laura Weidenfeld	..... Worship

Class of 2021

Paul Bellantoni	..... School Board
Cleve Corlett	..... Communication
Diana Jarrett	..... Pastoral Care
Jennifer Pease	..... Outreach
Kemp Williams	..... Fellowship

Non-Vestry Coordinators

.....	Pastoral Care
Tracy Enger	..... Education/Youth
Kristine Hesse	..... Communications
Cindy MacIntyre	..... Evangelism
Lynn Rohrs	..... Fellowship
Judy Willard	..... Outreach